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Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7<sup>th</sup> Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: David Madden, (415) 355-8800

**Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy  
Judge for Western District of Washington**

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the appointment of Bankruptcy Trustee Brian D. Lynch to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington.

Mr. Lynch will fill a judgeship left vacant when Bankruptcy Judge Philip H. Brandt retired on January 4, 2010. (Judge Brandt has agreed to remain on the bench as a recalled bankruptcy judge at the request of the court, which has seen a sharp increase in bankruptcy filings.)

“Mr. Lynch has extensive experience in bankruptcy law and will be a great asset to the Western Washington bankruptcy bench,” Judge Kozinski said.

Mr. Lynch, 60, has been a Standing Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 Trustee for the Portland Division of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon since 2004. As a Chapter 13 trustee, Mr. Lynch administers approximately 5,000 cases and supervises a staff of 19. As Chapter 12 trustee, he handles all aspects of Chapter 12 cases in the district.

Prior to becoming a bankruptcy trustee, Mr. Lynch was a partner at the Seattle law firm of Bishop, Lynch & White, P.S., where he represented creditors including banks, mortgage service providers, credit unions, and auto finance companies. While at Bishop, Mr. Lynch founded, developed and managed the bankruptcy department while also acting as the primary civil litigation attorney, handling judge and jury trials in the area of plaintiff’s asbestos litigation, title insurance claims litigation, insurance defense, and real estate.

A Seattle native, Mr. Lynch, received his B.A. from the University of San Francisco in 1972 and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1975. While in law school, he was selected to be a member of the American Bar Association Tax Lawyer Law Review Student Board. Mr. Lynch was admitted to the California State Bar in 1975 and to the Washington State Bar in 1978.

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Mr. Lynch has served as president, director and officer of the Chapter 13 Trustees National Data Center since 2005. He worked in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Treasury on mortgage modification initiatives involving bankruptcy.

As a member of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, or NACTT, Mr. Lynch chaired the Loss Mitigation Subcommittee from 2007 to 2009 and the Voucher Subcommittee from 2005 to 2006. He was awarded the NACTT Tireless Time and Effort Award in 2008. Mr. Lynch has been a volunteer presenter to Portland area high school students for the Credit Abuse Resistance Education program since 2006.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington is authorized five judges. In 2009, the court received 24,217 bankruptcy filings, a 49 percent spike from the previous year.

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment and for reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year, renewable term, at a salary of \$160,080, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.

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